

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-15, and 17-22 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13, and have canceled claims 4 and 16. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's prompt indication that claims 4 and 16 define allowable subject matter. As explained in more detail below, Applicants have amended the claims to place the subject application in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features specified in original claim 4, and have amended independent claim 13 to include the features specified in original claim 16. In light of the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 16 define allowable subject matter, independent claims 1 and 13, as amended herein, define allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 3, and 5-12, each of which depends directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, define allowable subject matter for at least the reason that they depend from claim 1. Claims 14, 15, and 17-22, each of which depends directly or indirectly from independent claim 13, define allowable subject matter for at least the reason that they depend from claim 13. Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 16 in view of the changes made to independent claims 1 and 13.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-15, and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Budnik et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,775) in view of *Bullock et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,817). Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent claims 1 and 13 made herein render this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1-3, 5-15, and 17-22, as amended herein, and submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this

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application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6902. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ITECP005).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, L.L.P.



Peter B. Martine
Reg. No. 32,043

710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 200
Sunnyvale, California 94085
(408) 749-6900
Customer Number 25920